

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Fairbanks Company on 120 years of industry in the Floyd County community.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### IRAQ WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Speaker PELOSI and Chairman OBEY for bringing the conference report for the Iraq supplemental to the floor. You have shown tremendous leadership in the face of great opposition and criticism.

To my colleagues who joined me in passing this legislation, we have demonstrated to our constituents that we are listening to their mandate.

Five weeks ago, we commemorated the fourth year of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Today, we move with urgency to end 4 years of bloodshed that has resulted in the death of 3,300 men and women in uniform deployed in Iraq, 59 of those being sons and daughters of the great State of Maryland.

While I opposed the war from the very beginning, I believe we have a duty to redeploy in a responsible manner that protects the Iraqi people and our troops.

Additionally, we have a responsibility to our courageous men and women in uniform, their families, and the American people by putting an end to their incredible sacrifices.

Despite the rhetoric, the President's plan is simply not working. According to a Washington Post report dated April 4, 2007, the number of Iraqi policemen killed across Iraq nearly doubled from 171 in February to 331 in March.

Meanwhile, the numbers of unidentified bodies found across Baghdad are rising again, suggesting an increase in sectarian-motivated death squad killings. Surely, this is not a sign of us winning the war in Iraq; but instead, it is a sign of how the conflict is swiftly tumbling into a civil war that is on the edge of becoming a battle beyond our control.

As Members of Congress, it is our duty to bring President Bush back to reality. Progress in Iraq will not be measured in military terms. The primary solution to many of the crises in Iraq are simply political, in that obtaining bilateral assistance from Iraq's neighbors, the international community and the Iraqis themselves, is a vital step to resolving many of the present conflicts.

Unfortunately, the President views the situation quite differently. Rather than attempting to reach compromise, he has threatened to use his veto power. In doing so, he will be rejecting the benchmarks for Iraq that he himself has repeatedly stated must be reached to resolve this crisis. The President will also be vetoing so much more.

The supplemental provides troops with three things they need to be successful: Training, equipment and rest.

Further, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am particularly proud that \$3 billion is provided for the purchase of mine resistant, ambush protected vehicles.

The President should take note that he will be vetoing accountability requirements in the area of homeland security. To that end, the supplemental makes important changes to the Coast Guard's \$24 billion, 25-year Deepwater contract to prevent the development of assets that simply do not work.

Further, the supplemental will require the Coast Guard to identify both the staffing structure it needs to manage Deepwater, and the training that acquisitions oversight staff will require to be effective.

Having chaired two oversight hearings involving Deepwater, and having worked with Chairman OBERSTAR, chairman of the full committee, to conduct an investigative hearing into Deepwater, I know that the significant problems that have been experienced with this contract have arisen at least in part due to the decision of the Coast Guard to move forward with the program before they had the staff, expertise, and management systems in place to ensure effective oversight.

Finally, I strongly support these provisions and look forward to building on them in the Coast Guard reauthorization which we are drafting. If this supplemental is not signed and if we fail to override the veto, we will start from scratch, forcing us back to the drawing board. However, I will not give up or give in. It is time to bring our troops home.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House regarding rollcall No. 265.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to note for the RECORD that I had voted previously for the supplemental measure, and that if I had been here at the time, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 265. It is consistent with my previous vote on this measure. While this measure is imperfect, I think on balance it provides the benchmarks the President has recommended. It also provides disaster relief that I think is necessary for many areas of the country that have experienced disaster that the President has so designated in his own message, and I want

the RECORD to note that I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 265.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### INTERVENTIONIST FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, no country has ever done as much for another country as the United States has done for Iraq. We have spent hundreds of billions rebuilding their infrastructure, providing police protection, building hospitals and clinics, schools, and water and power plants, giving free medical care, hiring hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and on and on. All of this in a country that had a total GDP of only \$65 billion the year before the war was started.

In spite of all this generosity, a huge majority of Iraqis, 78 to 80 percent by almost every poll, wants us to leave. They want our money, of course, but not our presence, except those who are working for us. But there needs to be some limit to our generosity.

We need to start putting our own people first. If we do not, we are soon not going to be able to pay all the Social Security and military pensions, and all the other things we have promised our own people with money that will buy very much.

Governments all over the world have gotten in this situation. They then start printing more money, and people do not realize what is going on. All they see is each year their pensions buy less than the year before.

Today we have a national debt approaching \$9 trillion. Even worse, according to the GAO, we have unfunded future pension liabilities of \$50 trillion.

We all love and respect our military, but there is waste in any gigantic bureaucracy, and there is huge waste even in the military. A year and a half ago, it was reported by the Defense Department's own inspector general that \$35 billion had been misspent in Iraq due to waste, fraud and abuse, and another \$9 billion had simply been lost and could not be accounted for at all.

Not only has the U.S. done more for Iraq, we do more for every other country, by far, than does any other Nation. Almost every Federal department and agency has operations around the world.

Liberals will tell you that our foreign aid is only a little over 1 percent of our budget. This is very misleading. We are spending megabillions in other countries when you add up not only the Defense Department but all the other departments' spending, too.